

**MINUTES OF THE
RURAL DEVELOPMENT LEGISLATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE**
Tuesday, November 18, 2008 – 11:00 a.m. – Room C450 House Building

Members Present:

Rep. DeMar 'Bud' Bowman, House Chair
Sen. Dennis E. Stowell, Senate Chair
Sen. Mike Dmitrich
Sen. Fred J. Fife
Rep. Brad King
Rep. Patrick L. Painter
Rep. Mark A. Wheatley

Members Absent:

Sen. Scott K. Jenkins
Rep. Melvin R. Brown
Rep. James R. Gowans
Rep. Eric K. Hutchings

Staff Present:

Mr. Stewart E. Smith, Policy Analyst
Mr. James L. Wilson, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Joy L. Miller, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Bowman called meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

MOTION: Rep. Painter moved to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2007 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Fife was absent for the vote.

2. Governor's Rural Partnership Board Report

Lt. Gov. Gary Herbert said the Governor's Rural Partnership Board (Board) was created in 2004. Its mission is to recommend to the governor and the Legislature a strategic plan for rural Utah.

Mr. Jeff Packer, Board member, outlined four recommendations of the Board in order of priority. They are education reform and workforce development, infrastructure, business resource centers, and health care and insurance reform. He stated the Board wants to have a strong presence in the education arena and has endorsed the governor's 21st century workforce initiative. Mr. Packer outlined the need for competitive infrastructure in rural Utah. He noted that the Board will closely monitor the business resource centers to determine if they are producing the expected outcomes. He encouraged the Legislature to move from the talking and studying stage of health reform to deploying reform in the state.

Mr. Rob Adams, Board member, addressed the issues rural Utah faces regarding health care as it relates to Medicaid. He said it is an important issue and the Committee can have an influence on it.

Lt. Gov. Herbert pointed out that there is a concern in rural Utah that the development of USTAR is a Wasatch Front program. He asked that the ramifications of USTAR on rural Utah be considered. He discussed the Rural Summit 2008 which was held in Cedar City. The results of a survey of the 250 participants are shown in the Rural Issues and Priorities Survey Results, which was included in the mailing packet. He thanked the Committee for its support.

Mr. Wes Curtis, Southern Utah University, indicated that the three planned business resources centers will be located in Utah County, Southern Utah University, and the Davis Applied Technology Campus. Mr. Curtis indicated there will be no requests for additional funds during the upcoming session.

MOTION: Sen. Stowell moved to recognize the service of and express gratitude for Sen. Dmitrich, Sen. Fife, Rep. Bowman, and Rep. King who will not be returning next year. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Dmitrich was absent for the vote.

Rep. King expressed his appreciation to staff and his legislative colleagues.

Sen. Fife stated that rural Utah deserves special consideration and preservation and he commended the Committee for its work.

Chair Bowman said he has developed many lifelong friendships through his service in the Legislature. He expressed his appreciation to staff for their hard work and to the members of the Governor's Rural Partnership Board.

3. Other Items / Adjourn

Rep. Painter explained that there is a large company looking to establish a manufacturing plant in one of the counties he represents. He indicated that the investment will equal approximately \$5 million dollars. However, he noted that new ramps off of I-15 will be necessary to accommodate the company.

MOTION: Rep. Painter moved to support the proposed manufacturing plant and the prioritization of transportation infrastructure to provide four new ramps off of I-15 near Mills, Utah in Juab County. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Dmitrich was absent for the vote.

MOTION: Rep. King moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Bowman adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.